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Sarah wins photo prize

Blackburn Museum hosted the winners of a competition showcasing the best amateur photographers from a local company.

The 'Family of Pierce' competition is run by Pierce, the Blackburn accountancy group, for staff and their families.

The 2010 theme was Family Pets, and the winning 12 images are now on display in the museum until January 2010.

Right, overall winner Sarah Kipps, 15, step-daughter of Pierce's Tracey Kipps, with other winners.

Fight the cuts!

Bishop calls for Christians to make 2011 a year of protest

By DAVID WATKINSON

THE Bishop of Blackburn has called for a 'year of Christian protest' against coalition cuts and the bankers who caused the economic crisis.

The Rt Rev Nicholas Reade, in his Christmas Day sermon in Blackburn Cathedral tomorrow, said the community had to unite in anger at the situation.

In an outspoken attack he said the Church needed to show solidarity with the large numbers of people who are suffering as a result of government cutbacks.

And he said he would use his influence, including his seat in the House of Lords, to stand up for the poor and vulnerable in East Lancashire that are hit most.

He said: "Perhaps it will need to be the note of anger in Our Lord's voice that we hear, and proclaim, in the coming year.

"We will raise legitimate Christian protest on behalf of those losing their jobs, seeing their public services undermined, their hopes for higher education jeopardised, or their fears realised through the creation of what increasingly seems like a less caring, more brutalised society, and where vast bonuses form the contemptuous retort to any mention of restraint, and the black economy of the super-tax dodger is seen as a legitimate moral code.

"Perhaps it really will have to be Mary's great hymn to the God of justice, her Magnificat, that we will need to echo in all its radical honour and intention, in the face of the continuing injustice we encounter in the coming year?"

Christmas is a time to support those who have been marginalised and have their needs ignored, the Bishop will say.

He said: "Our calling in the Church may be sometimes to be a critic, but above all it is to be a companion support to those in need of healing and hope."

MESSAGE: The Rt Rev Nicholas Reade

Life in a lens for cameraman

A keen photographer who is registered blind has put up a photography exhibition of Rishton images.

Ian Kitchin, 68, has been partially sighted for the past five years, but has maintained his love of images.

STORY 4

LAUGHTER IS THE GOAL!

Mock The Week pannelist Milton Jones heads to East lancs

STORY 9

Full steam ahead for spa at centre

A 'state of the art' spa is set to open next month at a rejuvenated leisure centre.

The news comes two months ago the future of Great Harwood's Mercer Hall was under threat after a £400,000 Sport England grant was withdrawn.

STORY 3

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Firm keeps on growing

TECHNOLOGY company Bglobal has issued new shares as it continues to grow.

In a statement to the London Stock Exchange, the firm, which designs and makes energy-measuring 'smart meters', said it had issued 100,000 new ordinary shares valued at 26p each.

Bosses hope the shares will be snapped up by investors.

Legion meet

Darwen Royal British Legion meets on January 6 at Bridge Street Sports and Social Club at 7.30pm.

Say cheese!

School pupils across Lancashire are now enjoying locally produced cheese on their lunch plates.

A new lower-fat Lancashire cheese is gracing tables in around 560 school dining rooms across the county. It was created in a partnership by Garstang-based Dewlay and Fulwood-based Ralph Livesey.

Lack of money halts ops on obese people

By **PETE MAGILL**

UP to 130 clinically-obese people in East Lancashire are on the waiting list for life-changing surgery because of cash shortages.

Patients across the area are being offered counselling and dietary advice, instead of being put forward for bariatric surgery – otherwise kn-own as a stomach bypass operation.

The cost of medical intervention is estim-ated at between £9,000 and £12,000 per patient by experts from NHS East Lancashire.

But with the NHS trust already postponing plans for three new health centres, the procedures for patients in Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle, Ross-endale and Ribble Valley have been halted.

Last month the authority, in its rolling financial report, reported a £300,000 overspend due to bariatric surgery. Tim Mansfield, the trust's multi-agency services head, said in a commissioning board report: "There are currently 135 patients in the system approved for outpatient and referral assessment.

"There is currently a hold on the process because of cost pressures."

Health chiefs are developing a weight management service as an alternative to a gastric bypass operation and are liaising with coll-eagues from Blackburn with Darwen Primary Care Trust, which is understood to be facing similar issues.

Patients with the highest BMI (body mass index) would qualify for intervention work, which would cost considerably less than surgery.

The clinical watchdog NICE recommends that surgery can be cost-effective for those with a BMI of 40 or more, or those with scores of between 35 and 40 who have another significant dietary condition, like diabetes, or high blood pressure.

Earlier this year, the British Medical Journal reported how weight loss surgery was still a 'postcode lottery'.

Party: A cracker of a meal

CELEBRATION FOOD: Catering staff join in the fun at a Christmas party organised by Age Concern, Blackburn with Darwen, and held at the Apna Ghar Day Centre, in Blackburn. From left are Hajra Pathan, Yasmin Mullah, Ruquia Begun, Shazia Mohammed, and Shahida Masood.

Villagers win fight for tree

RESIDENTS fighting to save an ancient tree are celebrating after a utility firm gave up its bid to chop it down.

Campaigners have won a battle to save a 160-year-old beech tree in the grounds of the United Reformed Church in Tockholes

In August, villagers staged an eleventh-hour protest to prevent Electricity North West workmen from cutting down the tree at the church in Chapel Lane.

The row centred on the utility firm overruling a council-imposed tree preservation order by exploiting a health and safety exemption about access to overhead lines.

Now, the firm has come up with a 'temporary solution' of insulating the power lines closest to the tree.

Terry Clarke, vegetation control manager for Electricity North West, said: "It is essential that we keep a close eye on trees close to power lines for both safety and supply reasons.

"If someone was to climb the tree, they could get dangerously close to the lines. Or if all or part of the tree was to fall on to the lines due to decay, then a number of customers would lose their supply."

No water due to frozen pipes?

Thousands of people in the North West are suffering from this.

In most cases it's the pipes in your own home that have iced up and it's important you deal with the problem quickly and carefully.

We're sorry, our engineers can't help you with this. Please check out what to do at **unitedutilities.com** or call a plumber.

There's also advice on how to avoid frozen pipes in the first place, especially if you're going away.

If you've checked with your neighbours, and most of the homes in your street have no water, please let us know.

United Utilities

For further information, useful tips and advice visit **unitedutilities.com**

Citizen In brief

Remember - you can recycle tree

Residents are being reminded that they can recycle their Christmas tree using their own brown bins.

People in Blackburn with Darwen with a brown bin can just chop it up and put it in the bin.

If they don't have a brown bin, then the trees can also be taken to the household waste recycling centres in Blackburn and Darwen or temporary collection points across the borough.

New year, new you

Fitness fanatics are invited to try out new zumba and salsa classes which have started at Darwen Leisure centre. Call 01254 874900 for more details.

The Citizen
Contact us

News: Ian Singleton on 01254 298205
isingleton@lancashire.newsquest.co.uk
Pictures: Neil Johnson
on 01254 298286
njohnson@lancashire.newsquest.co.uk
Advertising: Jackie Hudson
on 01254 298259
jackie.hudson@lancashire.newsquest.co.uk
Distribution: Kath Gee
on 01254 298298
kgee@lancashire.newsquest.co.uk

Full steam ahead!

By **DAVID WATKINSON**

A 'state of the art' spa is set to open next month at a rejuvenated leisure centre.

Just two months ago the future of Great Harwood's Mercer Hall was under threat after a £400,000 Sport England grant was withdrawn.

But after a £190,000 investment bosses said the centre would soon boast some of the most advanced facilities in the area.

Artist impressions of how the spa will look when it opens on January 17 have now been released.

The facility in Queen Street will include a new art deco reception and larger car park.

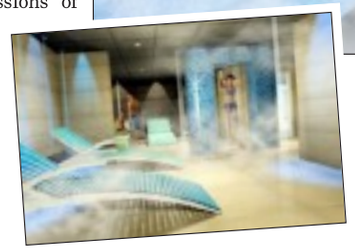
It will also have a large glass-fronted steam room, Swedish sauna, changing areas, hi-tech music system, a large relax and 'chill out' area, futuristic walk-through monsoon shower and direct access to the centre's 20-metre heated swimming pool. The new spa will complement the existing swimming pool, gym and studio facilities.

Michael Hunt, Hyndburn Leisure Trust chief executive said: "Mercer Hall is already a well established, friendly leisure venue and the investment by Hyndburn Council has enabled us to modernise the building and transform it into a completely new and revitalised venue.

"Local residents can now be proud that they have a facility on their doorstep that is on a par with private health clubs found in cities across the country at an affordable price that won't break the bank."

Coun Peter Clarke said: "If it had shut, there would have been a riot.

"That is why we fought with everything in our power to keep it open. We realise it is an asset to Great Harwood and Hyndburn so we will put in the money to keep it going."



WARMING UP; An artist's impression of the steam room, above and the wet area, left, at Mercer Hall

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Flintoff swipe at Blackburn

CRICKET star Andrew Flintoff took a swipe at Blackburn on Twitter.

The Preston-born Ashes hero said he had jokingly expressed an interest in the Blackburn Rovers job after the sacking of boss Sam Allardyce. He said he hoped to get experience at a 'small club' to land the 'big job' at Preston North End. But he added: "I'll have to check the contract and make sure you don't have to live in the town!"

Charity to grow veg at green station

AN old tradition is to be reborn at Accrington's new 'eco' railway station.

The Prospects Foundation, an environmental charity for disabled people in Hyndburn, has offered to step in to create a community vegetable patch at the £2million station, which recently opened in Eagle Street.

The group has already established two similar schemes at Rishton and Huncoat stations, and believes it will fit in with other enviromentally-friendly aspects of the development, such as solar panels and wind turbines.

Rachel Warburton, from the charity, said: "It was an old-time tradition for train station masters to be responsible for the planting and growing of vegetables.

"Over time, this tradition has been lost but the Prospects Foundation is planning on bringing it back with the help of the local residents."

The group will not only prepare a plot to be used for growing vegetables, but will also be responsible for general maintenance of flowers and bushes.

The vegetables produced will be sold to local shops as part of the group's social enterprise project. The Accrington station features a wind turbine, solar panels and water harnessing technologies as well as improved cycle facilities.

The Prospects Foundation group will be open to a wide range of ages and groups. Anyone interested in joining the group can contact either Ellie Taylor or Lesley Cryer on 01254 380677.

Camera: Ian's life through a lens

A KEEN photographer who is registered blind has put up a photography exhibition of Rishton images.

Ian Kitchin, 68, has been partially sighted for the past five years, but has maintained his love of images through the Accrington Camera Club.

A selection of some of his Hyndburn Trophy award-winning pictures and other shots of Rishton landmarks have been pulled together for display at The People's Centre, Rishton.

Mr Kitchin, whose wife Julia helps him with colour correction, said the advances in digital technology have enabled him to continue his passion for photography.

He said: "I see outlines, but have very little detail. If I want to photograph a street, I will walk up and down it so I can visualise what the shot will be. Then I use a magnifying 'loop' on the back of the camera to view the shot."

The gallery, which includes shots of Rishton War Memorial, is on display from Monday to Friday, 10am to noon, until February.

Make a date for new year walk

A RANGE of countryside events discovering East Lancashire's hidden secrets will take place next year.

Lancashire County Council have revealed their programme of countryside events for next year, which stars with a New Year's Day walk around Wycoller Country Park. There is also a walk along the disused railway line in Accrington with one of the county council's rangers, Paul Shoreman, looking at the trees in the area.

County Councillor Michael Green, cabinet member for environment and planning, said: "These events are hugely enjoyable. Walking, particularly in Lancashire's beautiful countryside, can be very relaxing.

"These walks are ideal for people who are not already regular walkers ."

For more details on the events visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/countryside.

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INTO MY LIFE Friendly Blackburn lady, 34, 5'2'', brown hair/eyes, searching for a genuine man, to share a little of life with. **Box 103700 t**

SHALL WE? Separated single mum, 35, 5'4'', brown hair, blue eyes, gsoh, seeks decent, fun guy, 35-42, for friendship leading to more. St. Helens. **Box 100207 t**

NEW AGE LOVE Slim, attractive Bolton girl, 35, 5'5'', feminine, caring and decent, interesting profession, seeks active, honest man, for happy times and warm wishes. **Box 100850 t**

DARE TO SHARE Separated mum of three, 37, loves nights out, cosy nights in & family life. wltm a nice, genuine chap of similar age. Blackburn **Box 899934 t**

IN TIME Hi I'm Diane, 38, a single mum, GSOH, enjoy going out or cosy nights in! Seeking male for friendship and maybe more... **Box 861631 t**

HI THERE! Single mum, 38, love my kids and going to the gym, gsoh, looking for a like-minded man for love. Blackburn **Box 466729**

NO JUDGEMENTS Quiet lady, 38, own place, likes to watch sunsets and enjoy quiet nights in, looking for caring, loving person to be my special man. Horwich. **Box 454977 t**

I NEED A HERO 38yr old woman from Bolton, single mum, just looking for a nice man to share days out and more with. **Box 454184 t**

LADY IN WAITING Genuine, honest female, 41, own house/car, likes camping, meals out, looking for my Prince Charming, for love and romance. Chorley. **Box 100752 t**

QUALITY TIME Slim, hazel-eyed girl, 41, 5'1'', professional, own home/car, likes bowling, cooking, horses and more, searching for a motivated, hard-working man. Lancs. **Box 100094 t**

IT COULD BE YOU Young 40 year old genuine lady looking for Mr Right to share 2010 with. Looking for romantic single man please no time wasters. Chorley. **Box 862143 t**

ENJOY MY COMPANY Sincere female, 42, enjoy nights in & out, restaurants & more, looking for a genuine chap, to enjoy good times together leading to romance. Darwen. **Box 101697 t**

SHARE YOUR LIFE WITH ME Petite female, 42, blonde, green eyes, own house/car, likes meals in & out, walking, music, seeks happy go luck guy, to enjoy good times with. **Box 101266 t**

LIKE MINDS Fun-loving lady, 41, honest and hard working with a great personality, seeking a similar man for ltr. **Box 861073 t**

LOVE LIFE Recently widowed lady, 44, likes pubs, cinema, animals, seeks friendly, fun loving male, for genuine company and more. Manchester. **Box 101291 t**

NEW IN TOWN Recently widowed lady, 44, likes pubs, cinema, animals, seeks genuine guy, for laughter, company & more. Bolton. **Box 101946 t**

NICE AND CURVY Decent looking female, 45, nice & curvy, very passionate & loving, wltm genuine, honest, good looking male, for a long term relationship. Nelson. **Box 101569 t**

OUR MOMENT Slim, divorced Bolton female, 46, 5'11'', active lifestyle, enjoys riding, the beach and more, searching for similar sincere, easygoing man, who enjoys travel and an active life. **Box 103002 t**

ENJOY LIFE Female, 45, slim, 5ft2, dark hair. Sociable, warm, passionate lady looking to share good times with a genuine man 42-52. Bury **Box 850124**

FOLLOW YOUR HEART Slim female, 47, gsoh, enjoys meals out, cosy nights in, socialising, seeking friendship with a nice, 44-53 loving gent. Bury. **Box 103502 t**

PERFECT COMPANY Manchester-based Filipino girl, 48, 5'1'', petite, seeking friendship with a nice, loving gent. **Box 101354 t**

I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY Sincere woman, 47, blue eyes, dark hair, enjoys walking, days out, reading, restaurants, WLTM warm hearted male for friendship and more. Bury. **Box 874631 t**

MEANINGFUL THING Curvy lady, 48, 5'5'', dark hair, brown eyes, likes walks, cooking, family life, seeks tall, family guy, to settle down into a lasting relationship. Chorley. **Box 102799 t**

ROMANCE IN THE FUTURE Outgoing female, 49, 5'6'', slim build, enjoys cosy nights in, socialising with friends, looking for a simple man, for good times leading to more. Burnley **Box 102946**

RSVP ASAP Divorced lady, 48, OHAC, has a GSOH, WLTM intelligent man with nice personality. I love abbreviations. Sale. **Box 460962 t**

SMILE AWAY THE HOURS Lady, 49, likes music, travel, cooking, wining & dining, wltm good looking male, GSOH essential, for friendship first, maybe more. Blackburn. **Box 598943 t**

REACH NEW HEIGHTS Shy, divorced female, 50, spiky black hair, green eye, petite with grown up children, looking for genuine company & more. Widnes. **Box 102948 t**

WILL THIS DO? Fun, loving, bubbly,lady seeking a genuine, honest, loving man to share life with. Likes nights out and in, very loyal and decent. Blackburn. **Box 868259 t**

THE BEST THINGS Attractive, fun-loving lady, 52, smoker, own home/car, dog owner, seeking a similar gent, 50-60, to share life. Blackburn. **Box 101086 t**

GAME OF LIFE Friendly, brown-haired woman, 52, 5'6'', nurse, mum, GSOH, enjoys cooking, travel and more, seeks an active, interesting man. Blackburn. **Box 100516 t**

HAND ON YOUR HEART Well travelling widow, 52, 5'5'', curvy, wickedSOH, likes cooking, rugby, meals out, history, wltm similar chap, for companionship & more. Bury. **Box 102376 t**

ROMANCE AHEAD Lively, petite female, 53, blonde hair, likes eating out, cosy nights in, art galleries, seeks understanding man, to share good times together. Manchester. **Box 100434**

MAKE EACH OTHER SMILE Young at heart 54yr old lady, brunette, likes dancing, cinema, walking, meals in & out, wltm similar gent, for friendship leading to more. Bolton. **Box 102049 t**

EASY TO TALK TO Happy, honest and sincere lady, attractive, aged, 53, 5ft5, brown hair/eyes. I'm a non-smoker and enjoy days out, holidays, meals out etc. Blackburn. **Box 467203 t**

A NEW START Warm hearted, widowed lady, 55, loves the outdoor life, walking & swimming, seeks tall, solvent man, 50-60 for friendship leading to more. Bury. **Box 100639 t**

FRIENDSHIP FIRST Active lady, 55 in Manchester, works full time, enjoys walking swimming, looking for a kind, considerate and understanding man to go out with. **Box 458054 t**

JOY TO COME Caring, honest lady, 56, likes music, animals, walking my dog, wltm genuine male, for companionship leading to more. Bolton. **Box 101500 t**

SHARE YOUR LIFE WITH ME Honest female, 56, 5'1'', own house, enjoys meals in & out, countryside, holidays, seeks a decent gent, 56-62 for genuine company and more. Accrington. **Box 101002**

LOVE AND ROMANCE Loving female, 56, brown/grey hair, likes holidays, places of interest, pubs, clubs, winging & dining, wltm sincere chap, to settle down with. Accrington. **Box 101779**

HAPPINESS Blonde, blue-eyed lady, 56, attractive and friendly, searching for a nice and genuine guy. Get in touch. **Box 100037**

NO PRESSURE Blue-eyed woman, 58, N/S, bubbly blonde, seeking a true gent, to get my life back on track. Leigh/Lancs. **Box 100144**

GSOH IS A MUST! Natural blonde lady, 57, n/s, caring bubbly, young at heart, loves music, meals out and holidays, WLTM male, 53+ for friendship-must have gsoh. **Box 454338 t**

GET SOCIAL Genuine 69 year old, 4ft11, Bolton lass, medium build, blonde, down-to-earth, likes pubs/social clubs, WLTM honest, friendly guy for friendship, maybe more. **Box 467004**

PURE AND SIMPLE Attractive, blonde Lancashire girl, 60, 5'2'', fair, grey/green, N/S, loves camping and good times, seeking a man, for friendship and companionship. **Box 102490 t**

GOOD COMPANY Lady, age 61, seeks man 60ish, good sense of humour likes going on holidays and lots of fun. Bolton. **Box 850328**

GREAT COMPANIONS Petite, christian lady, 62, blonde hair, likes countryside, meals out, pets, gardening, walking, seeks gentleman friend, for 45-75 for friendship & more. Burnley. **Box 102703**

THE BETTER THINGS... Non-smoking lady, 61, fairly slim, blonde (ish). I like weekends away, meals out, reading, walking, countryside/seaside, holidays, and WLTM kind, honest, sincere guy, Darwen area. **Box 467846**

IT COULD BE YOU Great personality, young outlook, 60's, slim redhead, looking for my soulmate. Darwen. **Box 857045 t**

HOPING FOR THE BEST Lovely female, 63, wltm caring man, to enjoy country drives, dining out & trips to the theatre. Chorley. **Box 101336 t**

SMALL TOWN GIRL Modern lady, 63, 5'2'', blonde with blue eyes, grown up children, looking for a caring, loving gent with own car, for company & romance. Manchester. **Box 464702**

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MATCH FOR ME Active female, 64, enjoys dancing, bowling, places of interest, cinema, theatre, seeks sincere gent, for friendship first, leading to more. Morecambe. **Box 103104 t**

FIND OUT ABOUT EACH OTHER Cheerful, lively, mid 60's, Bury area. WLTM charming, fun, kind and caring man. I love to laugh, I enjoy wining/dining, gardening, cooking, holidays etc. **Box 464731**

CARING & SHARING? Independent smart lady, mid 60s, medium build, brown eyes, grey hair, loves to make people laugh, seeks witty gent for good summer company...perhaps beyond? Bury. **Box 467588**

SUNSHINE LADY Young at heart widow, 67, slim & attractive, loves animals, meals out, social drinks, seeks easygoing, reliable gent, for romance. Bury. **Box 102862**

READY TO LOVE AGAIN Nice, caring and kind lady, 66, loves music, live concerts, reading, visiting new places, WLTM a nice gent to care and share with again. Manchester **Box 465074 t**

IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES Young, modern lady, 67, enjoys a laugh & a joke, being sociable, cosy times in, wltm upbeat guy, 35-50 for genuine company & more. Nelson. **Box 101731 t**

PLENTY OF LOVING Blackburn lady, 68, 5'5'', has blonde hair & brown eyes. Would like to meet a lovely man between 55-75 for TLC. **Box 101525**

LONE WOLF Fit, active widow, 71, no ties, likes holidays, nights in & out, wltm sincere gent, for friendship & companionship. **Box 101709**

REKINDLE THE SPARK Petite, attractive lady, 71, 5'2'', widow, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, country drive, seeks sincere chap, 66-72 to enjoy life with. Bolton **Box 103381**

OPEN TO NEW IDEAS Bubbly, lively female, ''Age'', 5'2'', likes music, social drinks, good company, looking for a nice, easygoing chap, for companionship & more. Bury. **Box 102543**

DANCE WITH ME? Petite, attractive lady, 73, 5'2'', enjoys music, dancing and dining out, seeks a sincere gent, for friendship and more. Bolton. **Box 102484**

ON A MISSION Sweet, sincere Bolton lady, 74, seeks a nice, genuine man, to share meals out, holidays and good company. **Box 101189**

TOUCH OF CLASS Honest, elegant lady, 76, 5'8'', GSOH, likes films, theatre, country walks, wltm gent, for friendship leading to more. Bolton. **Box 101298**

BE MY DARLING I just want to find a kind, caring man 60-70, who will make room in his life and heart for me. Please call let's not be strangers. Blackburn. **Box 101253 t**

STRAIGHT TO THE HEART Active, petite, attractive lady, 78, 5'2'', likes music, dining out & holidays, seeks genuine chap, for companionship & more. **Box 102308**

BRING ME OUT OF MY SHELL Lancashire lass, long dark brown hair, brown eyes, 5ft1, size 14, likes going out, restaurants and country walks, WLTM honest, genuine man. **Box 465650 t**

Men seeking women

Contact members on

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FINALLY FOUND YOU Genuine, trustworthy, reliable guy, 26, varied interest, looking a sincere lady, 24-29 to enjoy life together. St. Helens. **Box 103838 t**

COMPANION NEEDED Outgoing, active male, 33, 6ft, likes meals out, clubbing, keep fit, cosy nights in, seeks nice female, 24-34, for a relationship. Blackburn. **Box 100301 t**

SOMEONE SPECIAL Loving, honest and reliable man, 34, 5ft10, blue eyes. Looking for that someone special, someone for caring and sharing. **Box 465058 t**

WAITING FOR YOU Good looking single dad, 37, 5'9'', trendy guy, into most things, seeks similar female for fun, laughter and more. Chorley **Box 100190 t**

SEEKING GENUINE LADY Good looking guy, 37, 5'11'', enjoys walks and going to the gym, wltm female, 30-55 for weekends away, travelling, cosy times in & more. Accrington. **Box 102220 t**

HAPPY DAYS AHEAD Fun loving male, 38, 5'10'', brown hair, blue eyes, looking for an outgoing lady, 35-45 to enjoy life with. Blackburn. **Box 101938 t**

CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES Genuine male, 38, likes day out, cinema, holidays, wltm female, 30-45 to share good times together. Blackburn. **Box 101975**

MAKE A DATE WITH FATE Kind, loving, genuine, loving, Asian male, 39, 6'1'', wltm a warm hearted female, for a lasting relationship. Darwen **Box 102715**

Look online!

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blackburncitizen.co.uk/**dating**
blackpoolcitizen.co.uk/**dating**
burnleycitizen.co.uk/**dating**
chorleycitizen.co.uk/**dating**

HIGHWAY TO LOVE Confident, separated male, 39, 6'1'', single dad, varied interest, seeks female, 32-43 for friendship first leading to more. Blackburn. **Box 103072 t**

ALL WELCOME! Accrington fella, 37, 5ft11. I enjoy walks and going to the gym. I'd love to meet a girl to go out at the weekend with. Blackburn. **Box 466853 t**

CONSIDER ME Down to earth male, 40, varied interest, looking for a sociable female, 38-47 for fun, friendship and maybe more. Nelson. **Box 103836 t**

SMILE ALL DAY LONG Fun loving, black male, 40, many interest, looking for a down to earth woman, for friendship leading to more. Blackburn. **Box 102864**

ROMANCE IS KEY Normal, genuine Blackpool fella, 42, searching for fun, down-2-earth woman, with GSOH. **Box 100126 t**

PURE AND SIMPLE Tactile male, 43, own house/car, enjoy eating out, cosy nights in, weekends away, seeks easygoing female, for friendship leading to more. Preston. **Box 100958 t**

I BELIEVE IN LOVE Open minded guy, 43, 5'10'', blue eyes, own house/car, enjoys bowling, rugby, eating out, weekends away, wltm female, to enjoy good times with. Burnley. **Box 100983 t**

IMAGINE THIS Caring, attractive, loyal, separated male, 44, no ties, looking for a similar female, 44-50 for a loving, lasting relationship. Blackburn **Box 103179**

KIND HEARTS Lively Accrington fella, 45, loves walks, drives and the cinema, searching for a like-minded, active lady, to share adventures. **Box 100670**

PURE OF HEART Educated, attractive male, 45, 6'2'', GSOH, varied interest, seeks feminine, nice figured lady to enjoy the good times in life with. Liverpool **Box 100219 t**

SEARCHING FOR A SPECIAL LADY Active, delightful male, 45, own house, likes the outdoors, country pubs, keep fit, gardening, driving, holidays, seeks fun female, to enjoy good times together. Accrington. **Box 103201 t**

ADVENTURE AHEAD male, 45, 5'10'', green eyes, smoker, N/D, likes social clubs, cosy nights in, music, eating out, seeks fun lady 30-50 to share good times with. **Box 100084 t**

SEARCH NO MORE Self employed chap, 45, 5'10'', own house, seeks genuine female, for good company leading to more. Colne **Box 103049 t**

LIFE IS MADE FOR TWO Happy go lucky male, 46, dark hair, average build, looking for a fun lady, for fun, laughter and hopefully more. Nelson. **Box 102774 t**

HEAD OUT 46 year old male looking for female company to share life with, likes to have a laugh, enjoys pubs, clubs, dancing and much more. Accrington. **Box 853310 t**

KEEP ON Open, interesting male, 46, looking for fun with a sweet, outgoing woman, any age. Lancs. **Box 100173**

START THE GOOD LIFE WITH ME Honest, genuine male, 47, 5'11'', blue eyes, enjoys meals out, eating out, holidays, car boot sales, looking for a loving female, to settle down with. Burnley **Box 103113 t**

SOUL CONNECTION Sociable chap, 48, 5'10'', medium build, enjoys sports, places of interest, walking, reading, country pubs, seeking a female, to share similar interest. **Box 100377 t**

NOTHING BEATS GOOD COMPANY Honest, caring, reliable male, 48, 5'8'', blue eyes, medium build, likes bowling, cinema, days out, nights in, seeks sociable female, for LTR. Blackburn. **Box 101855**

GREAT COMBINATION Hardworking male, 49, N/S, own car, looking for a loyal, honest, caring female, for company and more. Darwen. **Box 101332**

REACH OUT Friendly male, 49, 5'9'', enjoys socialising, dancing and having a laugh, seeks an equally loving and caring woman, to get to know better. Lancs. **Box 100026 t**

ONLY FOREVER Youthful, athletic, tall man, 49, caring and loyal, enjoys music and fell walking, seeks equally romantic woman, for a warm, caring relationship. Lancs. **Box 100831**

SMART MOVE Tall, solvent, youthful chap, 49, likes to walk the dales, searching for an active, sociable woman, to enjoy life with. East Lancs. **Box 100833**

LIFE & LOVE Active, happy bloke, 49, searching for a down-2-earth woman, to make a fresh start with. Accrington. **Box 100244 t**

A FRESH START Outgoing male, 49, 5'7'', brown hair, likes countryside walks, holidays, cosy nights in, seeking a similar female for fun, friendship and more. St. Helens **Box 100304 t**

SPEND SOME TIME WITH ME Good-natured guy, 49, easygoing with GSOH, good job and nice house, enjoys walks, country pubs and meals out, seeks female, 40-50. Accrington. **Box 100154 t**

IN YOUR COMPANY Adventurous male, 49, brown eyes, stocky build, loves outdoor pursuits, wltm attractive, curvy lady, for fun, friendship and more. Chorley. **Box 101586 t**

LIFES UPS AND DOWNS Professional, separated, honest male, 50, N/S, loves driving, animals, the great outdoors, seeks like minded female, 40-50. Darwen. **Box 102481 t**

ADVENTURE AHEAD Hardworking, happy go lucky male, 50, 5'8'', no ties, seeking a warm hearted female, to settle down with. Accrington. **Box 101326 t**

BE NICE TO HEAR FROM YOU! Down to earth guy, 50, likes driving, walking, family life & enjoying life, seeks like minded female, for good times and more. Blackburn. **Box 101821 t**

IN THE BREEZE Smart, sincere bloke, 51, seeks a nice lady, to share walks and happy times. Colne. **Box 100492 t**

MISSING SOMEONE SPECIAL Easygoing, N/S 51yr old male, 5'5'', likes music, cycling, countryside, cosy nights in, wltm nice female, for a possible LTR. Burnley. **Box 101460 t**

LOOKING FOR YOU Solvent male, 48, slim build, well-travelled, likes eating out & socialising, seeks female, 40-50, for weekend pubbing & fun. Bradford. **Box 107789 t**

LIFE STARTS NOW Sincere male, 53, 5'8'', blue eyes, short hair, own business/car, likes nights in, animals, meeting new people, looking for a loving female, top settle down with. Blackburn. **Box 103340 t**

ONLY FOR LOVE Down to earth male, 53, 5'8'', slim build, own house/business, likes walking, countryside, animals, seeks caring female, for friendship leading to more. Coventry **Box 103151**

REACHING OUT Romantic male, 53, own house/car, own house, likes log fires, cooking, wining & dining, seeks a lovely lady, to share these lovely times with. Nelson. **Box 102014**

STEP THIS WAY Confident male, 55, 5'10'', blue eyes, likes walking, holidays, cinema, reading, animals, seeks a nice female, to enjoy life with. Darwen **Box 103261 t**

COMBINE WITH ME Honest, loving, affectionate chap, 56, recently returned from aboard, seeks tactile, passionate lady, to share life with. Blackburn. **Box 101069 t**

DECENT SORT Male, 56, 5ft11, dark hair/blue eyes, very honest, decent guy, just looking for a nice woman. **Box 861674 t**

DECENT SORT Friendly, honest, decent looking chap, 55, 5ft11, dark hair, stocky build. I like drinks out, countryside etc. Seeking LTR with genuine woman. Blackburn. **Box 458976 t**

SMILES BETTER WITH ME Sincere male, 57, enjoys country walks/pubs, dancing, wltm caring, kind, loyal female, to share happy times together. Warrington. **Box 102926 t**

LUST FOR LIFE Affable, good looking, 57, 5'10'', many interest, reading, holidays, looking for a warm, feminine lady, for love and tlc. Accrington **Box 100439 t**

QUALITY MOMENTS TOGETHER male, 58, dark hair, brown eyes, medium build, GSOH with no ties, looking for a loving female, to enjoy life with. Blackburn. **Box 102137 t**

PURE HEARTS Charming fella, 59, 5'5'', med build, own home/car, enjoys country, coast and dining out, searching for a nice lady companion. Lancs. **Box 100114 t**

LIKE TO KNOW MORE? Solvent male, 59, own home and car, likes movies and a glass of wine, WLTM lady to take out for a drive. Blackburn. **Box 875365 t**

TRULY MADLY DEEPLY Tactile, sensitive chap, 59, slim, brown hair/blue eyes. I enjoy cosy nights in, walking, holidays, caravanning, animals, DIY. Looking for LTR. **Box 875025 t**

A HOME LOVER Tactile slim male, 59, OHAC, likes DIY, animals, visiting places-of-interest, holidays, the countryside, meals out, cinema and cosy nights in. WLTM you! Blackburn. **Box 456321 t**

TAKE THE PLUNGE Caring, hard-working honest Lancashire male, 60, GSOH, searching for a genuine lady, to settle down with. **Box 103427 t**

A DIFFERENT BEAT Christian male, 60, genuine, honest person, likes most things, seeks similar female, for friendship and more. Burnley. **Box 101346**

HOPING FOR LOVE Happy go lucky male, 61, 5'7'', varied interest, looking for a easygoing woman, to enjoy good times together. Rossendale. **Box 101929**

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING LONG TERM Lively, passionate, single chap, 62, seeks nice, loving female, to share life together. Blackburn. **Box 102798 t**

I'M LISTENING Jimmy, 65, Accrington bred, divorced, writer, own home/car, GSOH, into walks, cinema and trips away, seeks like-minded lady, to love. **Box 101006**

NOT JUST WORDS Accrington gent, 66, own home and car, likes trips, holidays and seaside, seeks a loving lady, for good times. **Box 100453**

HIGHWAY TO LOVE Affectionate, retired male, 67, loves driving, nights out, home life, seeks genuine, tactile lady, to settle down with. Blackburn. **Box 101969**

THE STARS SHINE FOR YOU Tactile, caring chap, 67, 5'9'', N/S, N/D, own car, divorcee, likes meals out, cosy times in, garden centres, country pubs, seeks N/S lady. Chorley. **Box 102046**

Seeking the same

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SUNSHINE Lady who love a good conversation, 56, great SOH, very genuine and loyal, loves animals, seeks someone genuine and honest. Leigh. **Box 465812 t**

OUT & ABOUT Mature, trendy strictly-straight Rossendale lady, 60s , seeks a reliable, like-minded female for platonic friendship, preferably N/S, for holidays, outings, theatre & eating out. **Box 102127**

LIVE THE LIFE YOU LOVE Down to earth lady female, 70, 5'2'', slim build, green eyes, loves animals, countryside, holidays, wltm sincere gent, to enjoy life together. Manchester. **Box 102818 t**

SKY'S THE LIMIT Tall male, tan skin, 24, lots of tattoos, likes to dress up looking for a similar man, Burnley. **Box 467181 t**

SHOW ME THE WAY Burnley boy, 25, 5ft9, dark hair, tanned skin, quite a few tatoos, seeking a man to share good times with. **Box 456797 t**

DO YOU MIND? Victor Meldrew clone, 61, with a sight problem, seeks male minder for trips out, maybe more. Must have a sensitive, lively mind & GSOH. Kendal. **Box 560607**

IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES Confident chap, 65, enjoys photography, social drinks, conversations, seeks stocky guy, 21-35, for fun, company and more. Bolton. **Box 102687 t**

BACK TO YOURS Genuine cross-dresser, 60s, various interests. WLTM assertive male for mutual fun times. All calls answered. Cannot accommodate. Bolton. **Box 318164 t**

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Reprieve for sports funding in schools

By NAFEESA SHAN

SPORTS funding will be available to schools in East Lancashire next year after a U-turn by Education Secretary Michael Gove.

Bosses of the area's schools sports partnerships said they were pleas-ed that £47million would be allocated nationally until summer 2011.

However, the schemes still face cuts as the total is down from £162million.

This is ofset by £65million being made available in a bid to ensure PE teachers are free an extra week to promote participation in sport.

A high-profile campaign, invol-ving people such as Olympic champion Denise Lewis, has been run to save Schools Sports Partner-ships.

In East Lancashire, there are partnerships running in Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley, Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale which employ more than 50 people.

Staff are put into secondary and primary schools to run sports activities as it is said many teachers don't have the time.

The Conservative-led coalition had questioned the effectiveness of the schemes.

Heather Smith, PE and Sports manager at Blackburn with Dar-wen Schools Sports Partnership, said: "It is fantastic that there will be some funding in place. It was totally devastating when we heard it was going to be axed.

"This will mean we can salvage something."

History: Pupils 'travel through time'

NEW ERA: Pupils at Tockholes Primary School put on a ' Terrific Trip Through Time' show

The real thing

CHRIS Kelsall has reintroduced real ale at The Fernhurst Hotel, in Bolton Road, Blackburn.

Chris has taken over at the Ewood pub after seven years at the Failford Inn, Ayr, which was a finalist in the (CAMRA) National Pub of the Year.

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CitizenTime

Heard it from the grape-Vine!

Comedian Tim Vine talks about breaking records and appearing on Neighbours. He returns to TV in the new year for a new series of sitcom Not Going Out, written by Blackburn comic Lee Mack.

60 SECONDS WITH ... TIM VINE

YOU HELD THE GUINNESS RECORD FOR MOST GAGS TOLD IN AN HOUR
I only had it for about eight months, so it wasn't very long, but I've got a certificate on my wall which does give the impression I've still got it. Someone from Australia beat me I think.

ANY PLANS TO GET IT BACK?
Not really because if I went and did it again I would then end up being beaten again fairly quickly afterwards, so I'd be in the same position I am now but I'd have two certificates. I'm not sure that makes a great deal of difference.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR CAMEO IN NEIGHBOURS.
That was great fun. I was doing the Melbourne Comedy Festival and I just said to my agent as a laugh to see if he could get me on Neighbours, and he managed it somehow. I was very into it during the whole Kylie era.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO MORE ACTING?
Yes, I would at some point. I'd like to be on those things like Downton Abbey. It would be quite good to be in a period piece. I quite like the idea of looking very earnest and saying: "My heart dictates the pace milady", or something.

WHAT CAN YOU REVEAL ABOUT THE NEXT RUN OF NOT GOING OUT?
We just finished a new series so that starts in January. It's very funny, I can reveal that. Lee (Mack) has done a great job on it again because he does the writing. The strength of the show is all about the amount of time Lee locks himself in his tool shed and does his writing. The amount of work that's gone into the writing of each show is great.

What's on

theatre

A CHRISTMAS CAROL — The Lowry, Salford Quays, until Saturday, January 8.
ROMEO AND JULIET — Bolton Octagon, Thursday, February 3, to Saturday, March 5.
CALENDAR GIRLS — Palace Theatre, Manchester, Monday, February 21, to Saturday, February 26.

pantomime

MOTHER GOOSE — Thwaites Empire Theatre, until Sunday, January 2.
SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS — Opera House, Manchester, Friday, December 3 to Sunday, January 2.
ALADDIN — Blackpool Grand Theatre, Friday, December 3 to Sunday, January 2.
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JACK AND THE BEANSTALK — Darwen Library Theatre, Friday, December 10 until Friday, December 24.
ALADDIN — King George's Hall, Saturday, December 11 to Friday, December 31.
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gigs

THIN LIZZY — Manchester Apollo, Saturday, January 15.

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The Citizen Journal World Star Guardian WirralGlobe

Laughs are the goal!

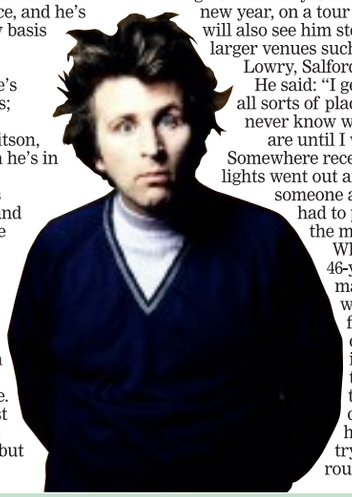
A football pitch somewhere in London must be the funniest place in the country on a Tuesday afternoon, if what Mock The Week panelist Milton Jones says is true.

The beautiful game is his relaxation of choice, and he's joined on a weekly basis by some of the country's top comedians. "There's about 15 to 25 of us; Tim Vine, Russell Howard, Daniel Kitson, John Bishop when he's in London," he said.

"The standard is wonderfully low, and of course there are several running commentaries on the action.

"It started about 10 years ago, and it's changed as people have gotten older.

"It's good to have. Comics tend to just talk comedy when they get together, but this way you have something else. Your mind is constantly racing for new stuff so it's nice to switch off."



The comedian will be heading to Burnley Mechanics and Buckshaw Village Community Centre in the new year, on a tour which will also see him stop off at larger venues such as The Lowry, Salford.

He said: "I get to do all sorts of places and I never know what they are until I walk in. Somewhere recently, the lights went out and someone actually had to put 50p in the meter."

While the 46-year-old may relax with his fellow comics, it's his three teenage children he turns to try out new routines.

"When they were little, they thought I had no job at all because I was around during the day.

"They get the idea now and it's gone through 'embarrassing father' now as they can go to Reading Festival, and come backstage at Mock The Week, so they want to know me again.

"They are ruthless when I test acts with them, but it's quite helpful – if it makes them laugh it probably means it's a winner."

With a radio series, and sitcom and panel show pilots, as well as a new series of Mock The Week, in his diary Milton is in for a 'claustrophobic' year: "I've gotten used to the idea of not knowing what's happening in two months' time, but it's all mapped out and that's great from a security point but it does feel slightly odd."

● **Milton Jones: Lion Whisperer, Burnley Mechanics, February 3, box office 01282 664400. Also, The Lowry, Salford, January 31 and February 4, box office 0843 208 6000, and Buckshaw Village Community Centre, Chorley, February 5, box office 07931 155887.**

Cinema round-up

MEET THE PARENTS: LITTLE FOCKERS (12A)

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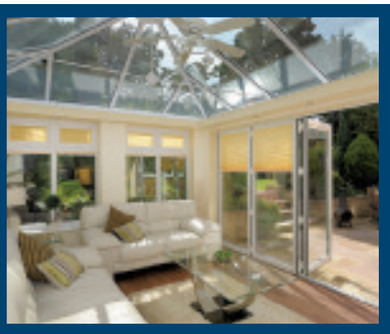

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Because of the importance of the Commission's independence, applicants should not have been employed in the newspaper and magazine publishing industry - at management or editorial level - for the last ten years.

A description of the role, and further information about the applications process, is available on the PCC's website www.pcc.org.uk. Applications must take the form of a CV and covering letter (addressing specifically how the candidate can meet all of the stated criteria) to be received by 5pm Tuesday February 1st 2011. Interviews of a shortlist of candidates are expected to take place in the weeks beginning 14th and 21st February. For those with difficulty accessing the internet, application information can be obtained from Mrs Tonia Milton, PCC, Halton House, 20/23 Holborn, London, EC1N2JD.

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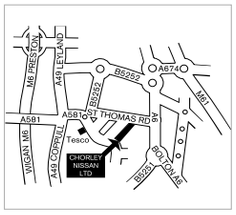

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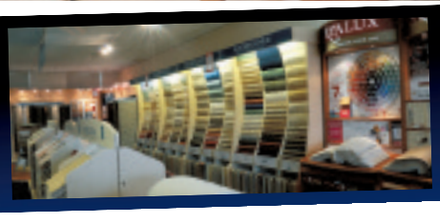

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